

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A die press, comprising:
2 a base;
3 opposing first and second supports extending from the base;
4 at least one cam member that is supported by the opposing supports;
5 means for rotating the cam member;
6 at least one bearing located on the cam member;
7 a platen positioned generally between the at least one bearing and the
8 base;
9 and a cover being unitary with the platen, the cover being slidably
10 engaged with the opposing supports to guide the platen during operation of the die
11 press.

12
13 2. The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the cover has a first end
14 that is slidably engaged with the first support, and a second end that is slidably engaged with
15 the second support.

16 3. The die press according to Claim 2, wherein the cover has a first end
17 cap and a second end cap so that the first and second supports are generally encompassed.

18 4. The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the cover includes at least
19 one stiffening component.

20 5. The die press according to Claim 4, wherein the stiffening component
21 is at least one rib.

22 6. The die press according to Claim 5, wherein the at least one rib is
23 located internally of the cover.

24 7. The die press according to Claim 4, wherein the cover includes a
25 plurality of ribs.

26 8. The die press according to Claim 7, wherein at least one rib includes at
27 least one cutout to accomodate the at the least one bearing.

28 9. The die press according to Claim 7, wherein the ribs include cutouts to
29 accomodate a plurality of bearings located on the cam member.

30 10. The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the cover is attached to
31 the platen.

32 11. The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the means for rotating the
33 cam member includes a lever member extending from the cam member.

34 12. The die press according to Claim 11, wherein the lever member is a
35 handle extending from the cam member.

36 13. The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the rotation of the cam
37 member provides for movement of the platen.

38 14. The die press according to Claim 13, wherein forces are transferred
39 from the cam member to the platen when the cam member is rotated.

40 15. The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the platen is an upper
41 platen.

42 16. The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the die press further
43 includes means for feeding a die into a working area between the platen and the base.

44 17. The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the die press further
45 includes means for feeding a shuttle into a working area between the platen and the base.

46 18. The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the base further includes a
47 pair of opposing rails defining a track.

48 19. The die press according to Claim 18, wherein each rail further includes
49 a cutout.

20. The die press according to Claim 19, wherein the cutouts oppose each other to define a track so that a die or shuttle may be moved along the track into and out of a working area between the platen and the base.

21. The die press according to Claim 1, wherein the opposing supports have front and rear surfaces, and the cover is slidably engaged with the opposing supports at the front and rear surfaces of the opposing supports to guide the upper platen during operation of the die press and to resist torsional forces.

22. The die press according to Claim 20, wherein the opposing supports have front and rear surfaces, and the cover is slidably engaged with the opposing supports at the front and rear surfaces of the opposing supports to guide the upper platen during operation of the die press and to resist torsional forces.

23. The die press according to Claim 18, wherein the base further includes a center rail extending from the base, the center rail being located between the two rails.

24. A die press, comprising:

- a base;
- opposing first and second supports extending from the base;
- a cam member that is supported by the opposing supports;
- means for rotating the cam member;
- a plurality of bearings located on the cam member;
- an upper platen positioned generally between the bearings and the base; and
- a cover being attached to the platen to define a unitary structure, the cover being slidably engaged with the opposing supports to guide the upper platen during operation of the die press and to resist torsional forces.

74 25. The die press according to Claim 24, wherein the cover includes a
75 plurality of stiffening ribs.

76 26. The die press according to Claim 24, wherein the die press further
77 includes means for feeding a die into a working area between the platen and the base.

78 27. The die press according to Claim 24, wherein the die press further
79 includes means for feeding a shuttle into a working area between the platen and the base.

80 28. The die press according to Claim 24, wherein the base further includes
81 a pair of opposing rails defining a track.

82 29. The die press according to Claim 28, wherein each rail further includes
83 a cutout.

84 30. The die press according to Claim 29, wherein the cutouts oppose each
85 other to define a track so that a die or shuttle may be moved along the track into and out of a
86 working area between the platen and the base.

87 31. The die press according to Claim 28, wherein the base further includes
88 a center rail extending from the base, the center rail being located between the two rails.

89 32. A die press, comprising:
90 a base;
91 at least two opposing supports extending from the base;
92 at least one cam member that is supported by the opposing supports;
93 a handle extending from the cam member;
94 an upper platen positioned between the bearings and the base, the base further
95 including at least two rails extending from the base, the rails being adapted to support a die.

96 33. The die press according to Claim 32, wherein the base further includes
97 a center rail extending from the base, the center rail being located between the two rails.

98 34. The die press according to Claim 32, wherein each rail further includes
99 a cutout.
100
101 35. The die press according to Claim 34, wherein the cutouts oppose each
102 other to define a track so that a die or shuttle may be moved along the track into and out of a
103 working area between the platen and the base.
104